

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the remarks and analysis contained in the Office Action. Applicant is especially grateful for the indication of allowable and allowed subject matter. Claim 20 has been amended. Claims 1-22 are still pending in this application. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application.

Claim 20 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over the Japanese reference 02056397. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 20 cannot be considered obvious because it includes detecting a spacing between markings and utilizing the spacing information as claimed. There is nothing within the cited reference that suggests such an arrangement.

Applicant submits proposed corrections to the drawings including additional labels in Figure 1 and includes a new Figure 1A to show the load bearing members enclosed in a jacket. The specification has been amended to be consistent with the new drawings. No new matter has been added.

Applicant respectfully submits that this case is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference will facilitate moving this case forward to being issued, Applicant's representative would be happy to discuss any issues regarding this application and can be contacted at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: December 16, 2002

CARLSON, GASKEY & OLDS

By: 

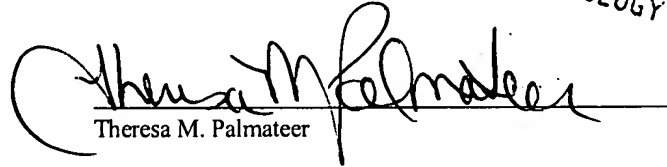
David J. Gaskey, Reg. No. 37,139
400 W. Maple Rd., Ste. 350
Birmingham, MI 48009
(248) 988-8360



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OT-4935/OT-4941

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that the enclosed Response is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to Assistant Commissioner of Patents, Washington D.C. 20231 on December 16, 2002.


Theresa M. Palmateer

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APPENDIX 1

“VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE”
IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend paragraph [20] as follows:

[20] A variety of load bearing assemblies 26 can be used within the scope of this invention. Examples include flat belts[, some of which have]. Figure 1A shows one example having a polymer jacket coating 27 over a plurality of load bearing members 28. Other types of belts or roping may also be used in an embodiment of this invention. The terms “belt” or “rope” should not be construed in their strict sense when used in this description.

APPENDIX 2

“VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE”
IN THE CLAIMS

20. (Amended) A device for inspecting a load bearing assembly in an elevator system, comprising:

a detector that gathers information regarding spacing between markings on the load bearing assembly; and

a controller that utilizes the spacing information gathered by the detector and makes a determination regarding a condition of the load bearing assembly.